DEPARTMENT OF PESTICIDE REGULATION
PESTICIDE REGISTRATION AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes – March 18, 2005

Committee Members/Alternates in Attendance:

Dave Rice, Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA)
Barbara J. Todd, Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)
Danny Merkley, State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)
Lynn Baker, Air Resources Board (ARB)
Dave Whitmer, County Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association (CACSA)
Barry Wilson, University of California Department of Environmental Toxicology (UCD)
Ray Chavira, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Reg. 9 (U.S. EPA)
Marion Miller, University of California IR-4 Program
Tobi Jones, Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR)

Visitors in Attendance:

Renee Pinel, Western Plant Health Association (WPHA)
Artie Lawyer, Technical Scientific Group (TSG)
Andre de Fontaine, Inside Cal/EPA
Brian Bret, Dow AgroSciences
John Pearson, Compliance Service
Kevin Keefer, WPHA
Minghua Zhang, DPR
Tina Louie, DPR
Keith Pfeifer, DPR
Chuck Andrews, DPR
David Duncan, DPR
Olga Escobar, DPR
Michel Oriel, DPR
Saturnino Yanga

1. Introductions and Committee Business – Tobi Jones, Chairperson

   a. About 23 people attended the meeting.
   b. There were no corrections to the minutes of the previous meeting held on January 21, 2005.

2. Overview of 2003 Pesticide Illness Report – Michel Oriel, DPR Worker Health and Safety Branch

   In 2003, the total illness cases were down relative to 2002, but a little higher than 2001. A

total of 1,232 cases were investigated in 2003 with pesticide exposure suspected or confirmed in 802 cases (65%). In 2002, there were 1,859 cases investigated with 1,316 suspected or confirmed. DPR also saw in 2003 the lowest number of episode ever (an episode may involve one or more cases).

Two possible factors for case drop are: (1) there was only one large drift incident (2003 – Kern County/chloropicrin, 185 cases investigated compared to the previous year; Kern County/metam sodium, 138 investigated; Kern County/metam sodium, 273 investigated) and (2) suspected or confirmed non-occupational illnesses fell dramatically from 2002 to 2003 (523 to 249). This fall in non-occupational cases coincided with the end of a project in where the California Poison Control System (CPCS) reported pesticide-related illnesses for physicians calling into CPCS. The project lapsed when a federal grant ran out and DPR faced its own budget constraints.

Occupational cases accounted for 553 (69%) of the 802 pesticide-associated cases from 2003. Before 1999, occupational exposures accounted for 90% of the cases related to pesticide exposure.

Of the 802 total suspected or confirmed illnesses in 2003, 405 (50.5%) involved the use of agricultural pesticides; 397 (49.5%) involved non-agricultural pesticide exposures. Eighty-one cases of fieldworker illness or injury were evaluated as related to pesticides, 58 (72%) were exposed to pesticide residue, and 19 (23%) were exposed to drift. For the first time ever, early re-entry did not contribute to any fieldworker injuries this year.

Overall, agricultural pesticide use was found responsible for 256 drift cases (71% of drift cases) in 33 episodes. This number is down from 2002 (478 cases and 39 episodes). Other exposure situations accounted for 107 cases (29 percent) in 87 episodes.

A total of 185 cases were investigated in relation to one Kern County episode, and 166 of them (including two applicators and one fieldworker) reported symptoms evaluated as related to pesticide exposure. The incident began after an agricultural pest control business injected 100% chloropicrin in the soil of a field to prepare it for planting onions.

DPR investigated 10 deaths in 2003 and six of them were found related to pesticide exposure, four were unrelated. No children were known to have suffered life-threatening illness from pesticide exposure in California in 2003.

In the fall of 2004, DPR began participating in a project with the Office of Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) to improve the timeliness, quality, and completeness of illness reporting. Funded by a $750,000 grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the project will seek to reestablish a working relationship with CPCS, train physicians to better recognize and report suspected pesticide illnesses, enhance reporting with Web-based tools,

and create a Web-based system for pesticide incident investigation in cooperation with the county agricultural commissioners.

3. Applications of Pesticide Use Reporting Data – Minghua Zhang, DPR Pest Management Analysis and Planning Program

   Minghua covered the following areas in her presentation:

   1. Introduced the pesticide use report database.
   2. Described the database data fields.
   3. Discussed the applications of the database.
   4. Introduced the pesticide use report data workgroup at UC.
   5. Described the activities of the workgroup and showed the website of the workgroup which includes the literature, documents and useful links relevant to the pesticide use. The website also includes the meeting agenda and presentations.

4. Risk Assessment Prioritization List Report #46– Keith Pfeifer, DPR Medical Toxicology Branch

   Keith went over page 19 of report #46 and summarized the information for new active ingredients--3 in High, 6 in Moderate and 3 in Low; 10 out of the 12 are new active ingredients. He also informed the committee that metam would be removed from the PREC prioritization list because the risk assessment has finally been completed. He briefly discussed the status section starting on page 20 pointing out why chlorothalonil and methyl parathion are listed twice. The reason: wanted to finalize the dietary assessment while waiting for DPR's Worker Health and Safety Branch to finish revising their occupational exposure assessments. Finally, Keith pointed out that the current sulfuryl fluoride (page 22) risk assessment is only for the product Vikane, and does not include any assessment of risk for Profume.

5. PREC Members Forum– Barbara Todd, Department of Food and Agriculture

   The California Department of Food and Agriculture's (CDFA) interest in pesticides involves three activities – the Office of Pesticide Consultation and Analysis, the Division of Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services, and the Center for Analytical Chemistry. The Office of Pesticide Consultation and Analysis (OPCA) was established as a result of the 1991 Governor's Reorganization Plan No. 1. The pesticide regulatory program within CDFA was removed and relocated in the newly formed California Environmental Protection Agency as the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR). OPCA serves as CDFA's eye and ears on state and federal pesticide regulatory issues affecting air, water, and land. OPCA has a Memorandum of Agreement with DPR that spells out specific responsibilities. OPCA also consults with DPR in analyzing proposed regulations affecting pesticides. The Office's goal

is to identify the most cost-effective strategies that protect people, commerce, and the environment. We analyze legislation related to pesticides, and prepare comments, letters, reports, briefings and other correspondence as requested by the Department's Executive Office. The focus of OPCA's activities changes as new issues emerge.

The Office's activities have also included a continuing research component since its creation. Most recently, an entire issue of California Agriculture (Jan.-Mar. 2005 issue) was devoted to research articles that discuss alternative control measures to organophosphates. This issue was an outgrowth of a study the Office supported. The study evaluated the possible impacts of implementation of the federal Food Quality Protection Act, specifically measuring the economic importance of organophosphates on the 13 top-valued economic agricultural crops in California. Copies of this issue were provided to committee members and the audience.

Division of Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services has multifaceted programs that use pesticides in the initial exclusion, detection and eradication of exotic pests. They work closely with DPR who provides environmental monitoring of projects as well as other state and federal agencies to minimize environmental and human health impacts.

In the Division of Inspection Services, the Center for Analytical Chemistry is the primary testing lab for DPR. The Center provides analysis of pesticide residues and their metabolites on fresh fruits and vegetables as well as analysis of environmental samples (air, water, vegetation, soil, etc.). The Center also analyzes pesticide residues associated with human exposure (clothing, blood, urine, hair, etc.). The Center participates in the USDA's Pesticide Data Program, which focuses on pesticide residue testing of specifically targeted foods, which is useful in evaluating pesticide exposures in our diets (particularly in the diets of infants and children).

6. Agenda Items for Next Meeting– Tobi Jones, DPR

The next meeting will be held on Friday, May 20, 2005 in the Sierra Hearing Room located on the second floor of the Cal/EPA building.

7. Closing Comments – Tobi Jones

The meeting was adjourned.